

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 5 are canceled.

Claim 4 remains pending.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

Applicants respectfully submit Claim 4 is not anticipated by, or obvious in view of, Drenski, based on the following arguments:

In present Claim 4, the atomic ratio of molybdenum ranges from 0.1 to 15 when that of antimony is 10 (from formula (I) of Claim 4). Further, the atomic ratio of antimony ranges from 8 to 1200 when that of molybdenum is 12. Thus, in present Claim 4, Sb is an essential component and the atomic ratio of Sb to the atomic ratio of Mo is relatively high. The catalyst of present Claim 4 is therefore an "Sb catalyst."

In comparison, Drenski discloses an "Mo catalyst." In Drenski, Sb, while it can be present, is not an essential element. In the empirical formula of Drenski's catalyst, "B" of "B_b", can be one or more of Mg, Mn, Ni, Co, Ca, Fe, Ce, Sm, Cr, Sb and W; preferably, B is the combination of Fe and at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mg, Mn, Ca, Ce, Sn, Cr, Sb, and W, and "b" equals 5 to 12. Thus, in Drenski, Sb is not an essential component, because it's presence is optional. The non-essentiality of Sb is further underscored by the Examples of Drenski, none of which employ Sb.

Further, unlike the catalyst of present Claim 4, if Sb is present in Drenski's catalyst, the atomic ratio of Sb to the atomic ratio of Mo is relatively low.

Although the catalyst of present Claim 4 and the catalyst of Drenski can catalyze the same reaction, the compositions of the catalysts are different, especially, as previously described, in the ratio atomic ratio of Sb to the atomic ratio of Mo.

The catalyst of present Claim 4 has a further feature that the ratio of molybdenum and silicon (Mo/Si) in the catalyst surface and bulk has a specific relationship not found in the

catalyst of Drenski, because the catalyst of Drenski the catalyst may contain both molybdenum and silicon because silica may be used as an inactive carrier.

In summary, Drenski does not describe or suggest the catalyst of present Claim 4 because, in the catalyst of present Claim 4, Sb is an essential component (Sb is an optional component of Drenski) and because the atomic ratio of antimony to molybdenum is relatively high in the catalyst of present Claim 4 when compared to the catalyst of Drenski. Further, as a result of these differences, the catalyst of present Claim 4 obtains a high acrylonitrile selectivity maintained for a long period of time.

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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